

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

14.7.04

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

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REC'D DATE	14.7.04	INITIALS	
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CONFIRMED BY (ATTORNEY)		Date of mailing (day/month/year)	12.07.2004

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
15683 TpCm

## IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.  
PCT/GB 03/02682

International filing date (day/month/year)  
23.06.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)  
19.07.2002

Applicant  
AEA TECHNOLOGY BATTERY SYSTEMS LIMITED et al

- The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
- A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
- Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

### 4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



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**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY**  
**PCT**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 15683 TpCm	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/02682	International filing date (day/month/year) 23.06.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 19.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC C08J5/22		
Applicant AEA TECHNOLOGY BATTERY SYSTEMS LIMITED et al		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</li><li>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</li><li>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li><li>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</li><li>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li><li>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</li><li>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</li><li>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</li></ul>		
Date of submission of the demand  27.12.2003	Date of completion of this report  12.07.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  Lartigue, M-L  Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8230	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/02682

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17):*

**Description, Pages**

1, 3, 4, 7-15 as originally filed  
2, 5-6 filed with telefax on 07.06.2004

**Claims, Numbers**

1-11 filed with telefax on 07.06.2004

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/GB 03/02682**

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**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-11
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/02682

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document: GB 2 309 701 (D1)

NOVELTY (Art. 33(2) PCT) and INVENTIVE STEP (Art. 33(3) PCT):

D1 discloses a process to produce porous polymeric membranes suitable for use in electrochemical cells. Said membranes are produced from polymers comprising vinylidene fluoride as defined in the present application (see D1 from page 2, line 15 to page 3, line 22). More particularly, Example 3 (see D1, page 11) discloses a process comprising:

- dispersing polyvinylidene fluoride (PVdF) or PVdF grafted with acrylic acid in a small volume of methanol (a non-solvent);
  - adding dimethyl acetamide (solvent) to dissolve the PVdF;
  - stirring and heating the solution;
  - casting the resulting slurry to form a thin layer;
  - drying the thin layer to evaporate the non-solvent and solvent and to obtain a membrane.
- Said Example 3 also discloses the fabrication of a laminate.

Hence, the process as defined in the present claims differs from D1, Example 3, in that

- 1) the boiling point of the non-solvent is higher than that of the solvent;
- 2) it specifies the temperature above which the PVdF solution is heated.

Consequently, the subject-matter of the present claims is novel over D1.

However, the subject-matter of the present claims does not involve an inventive step over D1 for the following reasons:

- the fact that D1, example 3 does not specified that the PVdF solution is heated above 40°C is not a significant difference because the aim of the heating step is, in both the present process and in D1, the dissolution of the PVdF and it is achieved in both the present process and in D1;
- it is not clear from the present application whether any effect results from the boiling point of the non-solvent being higher than that of the solvent. Hence, no technical problem seems to be solved by the present application over D1.